



SPARK GAP

Vol. 40, Issue 7 & 8, July-August 2023 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Please join us at 8 am this Saturday, 8/19 for our MARC monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin. Mike Turner, NV9I will be presenting "Above and Below and Interesting Things In-Between" so please plan to attend.

Our Annual picnic will be held in lieu of or September meeting, Saturday 9/16 at Northwest Annex Park, 1576 W Fry Rd, Greenwood, IN 46143. If you have a Yagi antenna for a handheld for Fox Hunting, or working satellites, bring it to the picnic. I will have a Fox transmission somewhere in the park to allow you to practice using your antenna to prepare for a future Fox Hunt! This is the Fox Transmitter:



73,
Tim
WC9G



JULY - AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

JULY

W1VYN – VYN POPPLEWELL

WU9Y – JIM SEIVER

W9BAS – BRUCE SHELLEY

KD9VFK – CHAN CORNETT

KF9NF – TOM DAUGHERTY

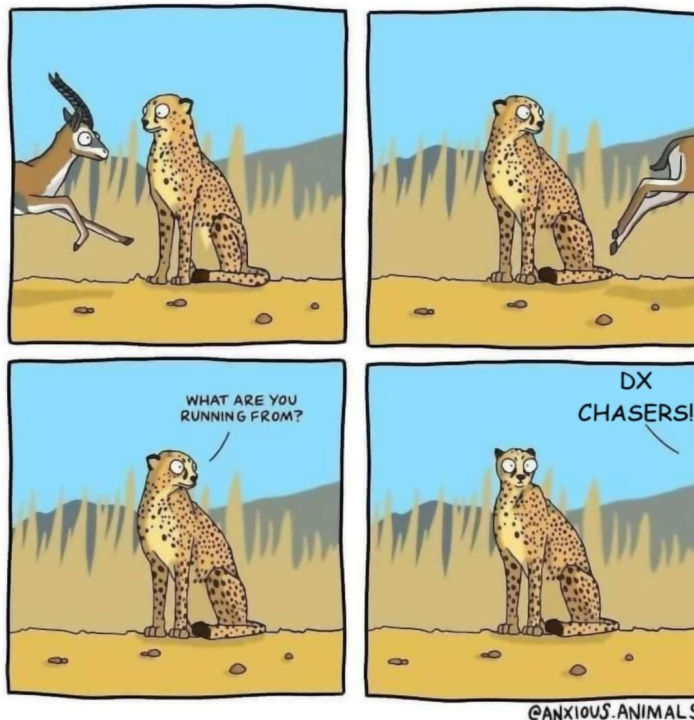
AUGUST

WA9JGB – GRANT BLACK

K9JRB – JIM BICKER

WD9WVD – JAMES BRYANT

W9WMJ – MARTY JUSTIS



Parks On The Air, Hoosiers In The Hills

A POTA Trip Report by James Adams, KB9JMU

In July 2023, I made a trip to Tennessee to visit my friend Ron Burns, NR3E. He's originally from Salem, Indiana and moved to Mount Carmel, Tennessee when he retired several years ago. Ron is the Summits On The Air (SOTA) Coordinator for the Kingsport Amateur Radio Club (KARC).

For this trip, I asked Ron if it might be possible to activate parks in Kentucky and West Virginia in order to knock a couple of states off my Parks On The Air (POTA) list. The POTA program tracks a number of milestones including Activated All States.

I arrived on a Tuesday evening and jumped into the local ham radio community at an "Old Fogies" breakfast on Wednesday morning with some hams from a couple of area clubs including KARC. Then on Wednesday evening, Patrick, NE2P, and his son brought their guitars by for pizza and an informal "jam" session of classic rock and country tunes. Yeah, I had found room for my bass in the car along with the portable POTA gear that I carried south. After playing a couple of dozen tunes, we settled down in Ron's shack to chase some local SOTA contacts on 2 meters.

On Thursday, July 13, our destination was Pinnacle Rock State Park, K-1819, in West Virginia. The "rock" is one of several in the area. Erosion has chiseled away at the top of Flat Top Mountain leaving these giant formations 2,700 feet above sea level.

The weather was not with us on this trip with intermittent storms everywhere we traveled. We set up in the parking lot, myself on one end operating SSB on my Yaesu FT-891 through a hamstick antenna. Ron set up on the opposite end of the parking area using his QRP Elecraft KX-2 and an end-fed wire in a tree. I had only made a couple of contacts, including Bruce, K9ICP, and the rain started. We quickly tore everything down and waited for the clouds to clear. After setting up again with more rain looming on the radar, we finished our activations and packed up before the next shower. Coincidentally, we missed James, KE8PZN, by about an hour. James is a familiar POTA activator who lives in WV. He also was at K-1819, got his activation and left as soon as he could for fear of the lightening in the area.

On Thursday evening, we attended the monthly KARC meeting at an event center in nearby Kingsport with an Italian-flavored dinner, a presentation on storing and packing portable gear and their business meeting that gave me some ideas to bring back to MARC.

Friday, July 14, we headed north to Kentucky. Our first stop after breakfast was the highest point in Kentucky, Black Mountain at 4,139 feet. Then, we continued on to our POTA destination for the day, Kingdom Come State Park, K-1262. This was a great property and the view from our operating station was fantastic. There was a heavy square railing around the Bullock Overlook platform at 2,680 feet. I stuck my mag-mount hamstick antenna on the railing and it worked great. I made SSB contacts while Ron talked to a Park Ranger who said he was often tempted to study for his ham license. Then Ron took over with his Elecraft and key, but used my hamstick to make his CW contacts. No rain was on the agenda on this day's activation.

We had made plans to activate Bays Mountain State Natural Area in Tennessee on Saturday, July 15, but found out late on Friday evening that the park had been temporarily closed because of Black Bear activity on some of the trails. Instead, we set our sights on Panther Creek State Park, K-2964. We set up in a shaded picnic area with separate radios and antennas. Rain was in the area, but we got our contacts before it started to sprinkle.

There was a lot of “catching up” with an old friend, meeting new ham friends while putting faces to voices that I already had in my logbook, good food, music and, of course, plenty of radio. It was another great week for a couple of Hoosiers in the Hills.





Jim at a beautiful overlook.

CLUB DUES FOR 2023

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2023.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

MARC Social Dinner
August 9th, 2023
Jockamo's Pizza Greenwood



Touch-A-Truck August 5th, 2023

It was a day with perfect weather at Mount Auburn Church for their annual Touch-A-Truck event. This was truly a family event and great for kids of all ages that enjoy looking at and getting up close to Fire Trucks, Emergency Vehicles, Various types of Emergency Equipment as well as a National Guard Helicopter. MARC was included in this event so people attending can see Amateur Radio in action. Club members talked to the many people that stopped by and some kids even had a chance to talk to someone in a foreign country. We had various modes being used that after noon HF and Wires X and all that stopped by enjoyed seeing the equipment that was in use. I am sure that MARC will be part of Touch-A-Truck again next year. Mount Auburn Church told me that their estimated total of visitors was around 2,600.



Opportunity for Public Service

Once again MARC members have been asked to help with the Greater Greenwood Community Band Festival to be held at the Amphitheater at Serena Park in Greenwood. The event will take place on Saturday August 26th from Noon to 7PM. Volunteers will be assisting with Public Safety and parking cars in and around the area. There will be about 10 bands participating in the event and there will also be many people coming to listen to the bands perform. We have helped with this event over the past few years and our efforts are greatly appreciated by the bands and spectators.

This event will be simplex on a UHF frequency and the band will be using FRS radios for communication to the golf carts used transport people to and from parking to the amphitheater area.

Volunteers for this event will need the following items to bring with them:

1. Your favorite HT and charged battery pack. FRS radio to contact the golf cart drivers.
2. Safety Vest
3. Water, Snacks, Sunscreen and Hat
4. Comfortable shoes
5. Chair

Please wear your ham radio gear and anything showing that we are members of MARC. This event is usually low stress with lots of friendly people attending. There are usually no large trucks or buses to park and that makes things very simple in the areas we have to work. Our duties are usually finished by 3:30 PM or 4:00 PM. You can also stay to listen to the Bands, free admission to All.

I will have a sign up sheet at the July club meeting or contact me at: n9siu@yahoo.com. We will need eight volunteers for this event to cover the entrances and places to park cars. This is a great event for new HAMs to work too.

73, Bob N9SIU

Buy, Sell & Trade

Here is a list of equipment I'm going to sell.

Icom 7600

Samlex Sec 1235M – 30A power supply

Icom SP23 speaker – has selectable filters

Has HM36 hand mic., power cords, manuals, and original cartons

\$1,600 for all

Moving to a retirement home with no place for antennae.

Can see equipment and operate

Any questions contact me at lkcohoon2@gmail.com

Thanks Keith-- K9PDI



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : OPEN

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

**P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131**

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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